

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical manual](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

General Prevention

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Odds of a positive net present value
Youth mentoring programs (taxpayer costs only)	Apr. 2012	\$16,522	\$4,551	\$11,971	(\$1,480)	\$15,042	\$11.30	100 %
Good Behavior Game	Apr. 2012	\$13,206	\$3,594	\$9,612	(\$156)	\$13,050	\$84.63	92 %
Guiding Good Choices (formerly Preparing for the Drug Free Years)	Apr. 2012	\$8,046	\$2,344	\$5,702	(\$905)	\$7,141	\$8.93	96 %
Quantum Opportunities Program	Apr. 2012	\$31,797	\$10,470	\$21,326	(\$26,455)	\$5,341	\$1.22	59 %
Youth mentoring programs	Apr. 2012	\$9,278	\$3,075	\$6,202	(\$4,885)	\$4,393	\$1.92	57 %
Seattle Social Development Project	Apr. 2012	\$6,967	\$2,197	\$4,770	(\$3,086)	\$3,882	\$2.25	59 %
Communities That Care	Apr. 2012	\$2,066	\$577	\$1,489	(\$572)	\$1,494	\$3.69	92 %
Behavioral Monitoring and Reinforcement Program (BMRP)	Apr. 2012	\$1,299	\$480	\$819	(\$1,301)	(\$2)	\$0.99	55 %
Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)	Apr. 2012	(\$70)	(\$4)	(\$66)	(\$117)	(\$187)	(\$0.60)	18 %
Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth 10-14	Apr. 2012	\$410	\$306	\$104	(\$1,099)	(\$690)	\$0.37	12 %
CASASTART	Apr. 2012	(\$4,624)	(\$248)	(\$4,375)	(\$6,940)	(\$11,564)	(\$0.67)	0 %
Children's Aid Society--Carrera	Apr. 2012	\$2,797	\$2,962	(\$165)	(\$14,498)	(\$11,702)	\$0.19	36 %
Fast Track prevention program	Apr. 2012	(\$27,294)	\$572	(\$27,866)	(\$59,812)	(\$87,105)	(\$0.46)	0 %

Other General Prevention topics reviewed; benefit-cost results not yet available:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
4Results Mentoring	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Coping and Support Training	Jun. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Reconnecting Youth	Jun. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.

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The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A board of Directors--representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities--governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.